(c) The on-going crop production schemes for the development of Rice, Wheat, Coarse Cereals, etc., have been modified from the year 1994-95 with an objective of increasing overall production and productivity of cereals through development of cropping system as a whole under specified Crop Based Cropping Systems.

Latur quake affected villages

1673. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of quake affected villages in Latur and Osmanabad which are to be reconstructed to rehabilitate the quake survivors;

(b) what is the role of the Central Government in the reconstruction of these villages stating the nature of aid to be provided; and

(c) what is the present position with regard to reconstruction of these villages stating the number of villages reconstructed and the number of affected families resettled so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The Maharashtra Earthquake Rehabilitation Project envisages relocation and total reconstruction of 52 completely destroyed villages.

(b) Apart from channelising the external credit, the Government of India is also providing the State Government necessary technology support for the rehabilitation programme.

(c) Construction of about 6,000 houses under the rehabilitation project has been completed and another 11,000 are under construction. Pending permanent rehabilitation, all the affected families in the 52 villages have been provided temporary shelters.

IARI Library

1674. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IARI Library has assumed National Charter and played a leading role in the development of agricultural libraries relating to manpower resources, literature development and professional activities;

(b) whether a number of fora such as Dr. Ralph Shaw and Dr. D. B. Krishna Rao Committee (1958), ICAR Joint workshop on libraries and Exten. service Pantnagar (1965), Joint Indo-American library survey and study team (Dr. Dorothy Parkar Committee 1967). Dr. Ramaiah Committee (1975), working group on Agricultural Libraries of Planning Commission (1985—90) ICAR Quinquennial, Review Team on IARI (1972—82 and 1983—90) have recommended, from time to time, for grant of national status to IARI Library;

(c) The steps Government are contemplating to implement the recommendations made by various fora; and

(d) what are the reasons which have prevented Government so far from granting national status to the library?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The IARI including its Library is already enjoying the national character in the country.

(d) The facilities in the library are being upgraded to bring it to the level where it can be considered for grant of National status.

Productivity of cotton

1675. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL:
SHRI S. MADHAVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is our present level of productivity of cotton per hectare of land and how does it compare with other countries;

(b) the steps Government have taken to identify the causes or low productivity;

(c) the steps Government have taken to remedy the situation;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government have resorted to import of powerlooms which are not the remedy to the situation; and

(e) what are the details of the powerlooms imported in recent years or proposed to be imported in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM)): (a) The productivity of cotton in India during 1993-94 was 248 Kgs. per hectare. The productivity of cotton in some important cotton growing countries is as under:—

(in Kg./Hectare)

USA	CHINA	PAKISTAN	BRAZIL
680	749	468	373

(b) A task force on cotton has been constituted to identify the constraints in cotton production and its productivity and to suggest the remedial measures.

(c) Government of India have launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely, Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) in major cotton growing States. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided to the States for production and distribution of quality seeds, demonstration of latest production technology and integrated pest management, supply of Sprinklers, farmers training etc., to improve the productivity and production of cotton.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

New Economic Reforms vis-a-vis Agriculture

1676. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new economic reforms have not benefited the agriculture sector as it failed to undo the development pattern which discriminated against agriculture;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to rectify the situation;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the agriculture sector has been suffering from some "structural weaknesses" that had rendered it incapable of drawing any benefit from liberalisation of the economy; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken to overcome that weakness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Scheme for Bee keeping

1677. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to launch scheme to start bee keeping on a large scale;

(b) if so, the incentives proposed to be given to encourage bee keeping;

(c) whether bee keeping scheme were being launched by Government eatlier also;

(d) if so, the review made on the success of those schemes; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the scheme on bee keeping financial support is being provided for research & development, production of bee colonies & their distribution on subsidised rates, development of infrastructure for handling and marketing of honey & its products, training & publicity etc.

(c) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of House.